



# GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

## ▪ MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION ▪

P.O. Box 740381, Atlanta, GA 30374-0381 ▪ Tel: 1-855-406-5221

**David M. Curry**, Revenue Commissioner ▪ **Brent Bennett**, Director

## NOTICE TO GEORGIA MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS AND ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES Extension of TOPs Through May 15, 2020

### **What is the purpose of this notice?**

Due to concerns regarding the COVID-19 coronavirus, the Georgia Department of Revenue's Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) will not require motorists in Georgia to replace a Temporary Operating Permit (TOP) until after Friday, May 15, 2020. That means that any TOP set to expire March 16, 2020 or later will be valid through and including Friday, May 15, 2020. This applies to all vehicles for which a TOP can be issued, including personal passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles.

### **What is a Temporary Operating Permit (TOP)?**

A Temporary Operating Permit (TOP) is a temporary, paperlike substitute for a license plate issued by a licensed motor vehicle dealer, a Georgia county tag office, or MVD. Dealers may apply white TOP stickers to paper or paperlike sheets showing the name of the dealer. A valid TOP issued for a specific motor vehicle is the equivalent of a Georgia license plate and allows such vehicle to be driven on Georgia public highways and streets. Dealers issue TOPs to purchasers of new or used vehicles to permit use of the vehicle until the purchaser can obtain the Georgia certificate of title and register the motor vehicle in Georgia or the purchaser's home state. County tag offices and MVD also issue TOPs for various reasons.

### **What do I need to do as a motor vehicle dealer?**

If your customer is unable to register a vehicle before the expiration of a TOP with an expiration date of March 16, 2020 or later, you may share a copy of this bulletin via e-mail, facsimile or any other method. MVD is also sending copies of this bulletin to Georgia law enforcement agencies, but all officers may not receive the notice before conducting a traffic stop involving one of these TOPs (and officers in other states may not receive it at all). If a law enforcement officer notes that the TOP has expired, the driver can present a copy of this bulletin to notify the officer of the automatic extension granted by MVD.

### **What do I need to know as a law enforcement officer?**

Georgia TOPs contain the vehicle's vehicle identification number (near the top) and make, model and year (near the bottom). On a valid TOP, these details should match the vehicle bearing the TOP. Valid TOPs also contain a hologram of the Georgia state seal with a control number printed underneath.

As stated above, any TOP with an expiration date of March 16, 2020 or later should not be treated as expired until Saturday, May 16, 2020. If necessary, MVD may also issue another extension for TOPs in a future bulletin.



**For more information, please visit the Motor Vehicle Division website at [dor.georgia.gov/motor-vehicles](http://dor.georgia.gov/motor-vehicles) or scan the QR code.**



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Lynnette T. Riley, Commissioner ▪ Georgia Steele, Director



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